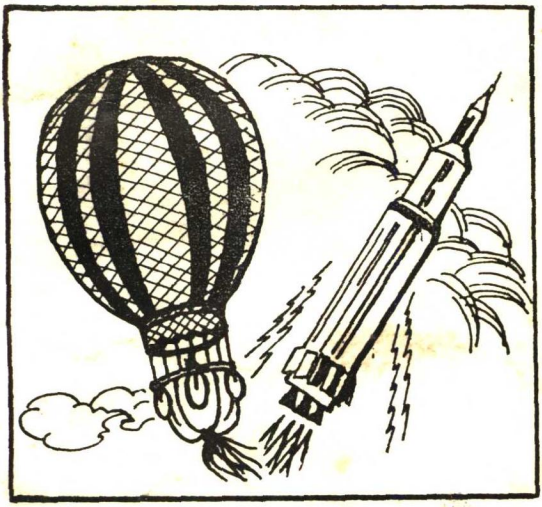
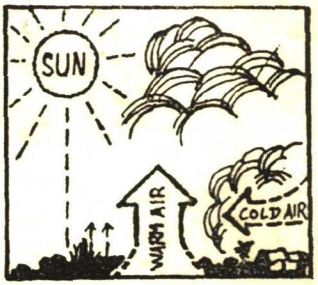
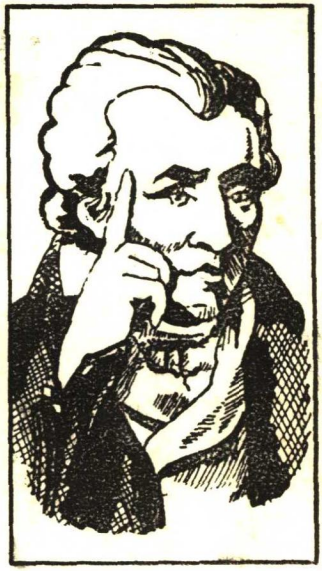
现代英语导读

BETTER READING







北京语言学院出版社

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许勤秋　田静先　编
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前　言

Better Reading 是专为加速提高科技英语阅读能力而编写的教材，全书共选44篇科技小品，大多涉及本世纪科学界的大事和著名科学家的非凡事迹，题材十分广泛。所选各篇都见诸美国最新的书刊、教材，语言浅显，生动活泼，引人入胜。

在编写方法上，本书有如下特点：1．结合每篇文章介绍了一套系统的阅读技巧。为了检索方便，特编目附于书前；2．编排上注意先易后难，循序渐进；3．每篇文章后面都有词汇、注释，帮助读者扫清阅读中的障碍；4．每篇文章后面还有思考题，引导读者检查自己的阅读能力。

本书的适用对象是准备出国学习、进修的科技人员，高等学校中学习英文的理、工、农、医等科的大学生、研究生及其他具有中等英语水平的读者。

本书编成之后，曾经原子能科学研究院副研究员夏祖平同志详细审订，在此特致谢意。

编者

1987年10月

CONTENTS

A List of Reading Skills

HOW TO STUDY IN SCIENCE (1) (2) (3)
HOW TO READ FAST (4) (5) (6)
BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SPEED (7)
CHECKING YOUR SPEED (8) (9)
TAKING STOCK OF YOUR READING ABILITIES (10)
WHEN AND HOW TO SKIM (11) (12) (13)
HOW TO READ IN SCIENCE (14) (32) (35) (37)
SKIMMING TO MAKE A PREVIEW (15)
SKIMMING TO GATHER MAIN IDEAS (16)
SKIMMING WITH THE USE OF KEY WORDS (17)
RECOGNIZING WORD PART (18)
DECODING TECHNIQUES (19)
CHOOSING THE RIGHT DEFINITION OF A WORD (20)
REMEMBERING WHAT YOU READ (21) (22) (24) (25) (26) (28) (29) (30) (34) (36)
HOW TO READ THE PROBLEM-SOLVING PATTERN (23)
HOW TO READ IN SOCIAL STUDIES (27) (41) (43)
HOW TO READ A SCIENCE ARTICLE (31) (39)
READING AND ORGANIZING DETAILS (33)

1. A Change in the Temperature

HOW TO STUDY IN SCIENCE

Overviewing or Previewing

When your teacher gives you an assignment in your science textbook, this assignment may cover an entire chapter if the chapter is short, or a section of a chapter if the chapter is long.

Whether the assignment covers an entire chapter or a part of a chapter, make an *overview* of the whole chapter. Turn through all of the pages slowly, reading all headings, examining all pictures and diagrams, and reading the captions under the illustrations.

After getting a general idea of what the entire chapter is about, you are ready to study it intensively if your assignment covers the whole chapter. In case the assignment covers a part of the chapter, you may find it helpful to *preview* the section assigned within the chapter by very carefully studying all of the headings and illustrations. In *overviewing*, you work with a whole chapter; in *previewing*, with a section only.

"Look at this thermometer—180 tiny marks to read! And why should water freeze at 32° and boil at 212°? Working with those figures is so awkward." The man complaining was the Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius①. Like many other scientists, he thought the Fahrenheit thermometer② was difficult to read accurately and complicated to use. But unlike the others, he didn't just complain—he invented his own way to measure temperature.

Celsius set the freezing point at 0° and the boiling point at 100° on his new scale.③ This scale was called centigrade because it had only 100 marks. (*Centi* means *100*; *grade* means *degree*.) Scientists in many nations soon adopted the easier-to-use centigrade scale. In 1948, over 200 years after Celsius improved the thermometer, scientists from around the world honored him. They decided that the new international name for the centigrade thermometer scale④ should be the *Celsius scale*⑤. Today most countries use the Celsius scale. The United States is one of the few nations still measuring temperature the hard way!⑥ (177words)

Anders Celsius

Vocabulary

thermometer [θə'mɔmitə] n. 温度计；寒暑表
tiny ['taini] a. 微小的；细小的
freeze [fri:z] (froze [frouz]; frozen['frouzn])v. 结冰；凝固

boil [bɔil] v.	达到沸点；沸腾
figure ['figə] n.&v.	数字；计算；估计
awkward ['ɔ:kwəd] a.	使用不便的；困难的
complain [kəm'plein] v.	抱怨；诉苦
Swedish ['swi:diʃ] n.& a.	瑞典人；瑞典的
astronomer [əs'trɔnəmə] n.	天文学家
Fahrenheit ['færənhait] a.	华氏温度计的，华氏的
accurately ['ækjuritli] ad.	准确地，精确地
complicate ['kɔmplikeit] v.	变复杂
invent [in'vent] v.	发明
centigrade ['sentigreid] a.	百分度的；摄氏温度计的
adopt [ə'dɔpt] v.	采用，采纳
hono(u)r ['ɔnə] v.	给……以荣誉

Notes

① Anders Celsius ['ændəs 'selsjəs]
安德斯·摄尔西乌斯(1701—1744)，瑞典天文学家。

② the Fahrenheit thermometer
华氏温度计。

③ Celsius set the freezing point at 0 °and the boiling point at 100° on his new scale.
在他的新标度上，摄尔西乌斯把0°定为冰点，把100°定为沸点。

④ the centigrade thermometer scale
摄氏温标，即百分度温标。

⑤ the Celsius scale = the centigrade scale

摄氏标，即百分度温标。

⑥ …still measuring temperature the hard way.

……仍然用这种不方便的方法来测量温度。

Questions:

1. Who was Anders Celsius?
2. Why did he invent his own way to measure temperature?
3. What is the standard boiling point and freezing point on the Fahrenheit and the centigrade scales?
4. What scale does the United States use in measuring temperature?

2. Norman Borlaug®—Lifesaver

HOW TO STUDY IN SCIENCE

Looking Up Unfamiliar Words

You will meet many unfamiliar words in science. If some of these appear in the headings or in the captions for the illustrations, look them up in the glossary of your textbook or in a dictionary. Be sure you know their meaning and pronunciation before you study the text. Also look up the pronunciation of other unfamiliar words that you meet in the text while studying. Their meaning will probably become clear as you read the content of the chapter or section.

Most words in science have Latin or Greek origins. you should analyze the meaning of prefixes, suffixes, and roots of technical science words in your dictionary. Many prefixes, suffixes, and roots recur again and again.

If you learn origins as you go along, you will find you already know the roots, prefixes, and suffixes of many new words as you come across them. In this-

way building your vocabulary will become simpler rather than more difficult as you read more science material.

Norman Borlaug saved thousands of lives. Is he a doctor or a fireman? No! Surprisingly, he is an American agriculturist who taught wheat farmers② in Mexico to use their land better. This was important, for food was scarce. People soon might starve.

Since farmers planted the same crop yearly, the soil was weak. Borlaug showed them how to fertilize the soil. Millions of wheat seeds sprouted in the fertilized fields③. The plants grew until they had tall, thin stems with huge clusters of valuable wheat④. But the clusters were so heavy that the plants toppled over. Damp soil rotted the wheat, and harvest machines only skimmed over the drooping crop. Starvation neared⑤.

Next, Norman Borlaug sowed foreign wheat seeds and crossed and recrossed the plants. He developed a new strain, dwarf wheat, with stubby stems for support. It grew in many soils and climates and produced high yields. Long troubled by famine⑥, India and Pakistan, began importing seeds. Wheat production increased 50% in the next five years.

For his experiments of twenty-seven years, Borlaug

earned a Nobel Prize⑦ in 1970 and thousands of expressions of gratitude⑧ .(189 words)

Vocabulary

lifesaver ['laif'seivə] n. 救生员；救命人(物)
fireman ['faiəmən] n. 消防队员
Mexico ['meksikou] n. 墨西哥
scarce [skɛəs] a. 缺乏的，不足的
starve [sta:v] v. 挨饿，饿死
soil [sɔil] n. 土壤
fertilize ['fə:tilaiz] v. 使肥沃
sprout [spraut] v. 发芽；很快地生长
stem [stem] n. 茎，梗
cluster ['klʌstə] n. 一簇；一串
topple ['tɔpl] v. (over) 倒下；摇倒
damp [dæmp] a. 潮湿的
rot [rɔt] (rotted;rotting)v. 使腐烂，使腐朽
droop [dru:p] v. 低垂，下垂
skim [skim] (skimmed; skimming) v. 铲削，撇去
sow [sou] v. 播种
cross [krɔs] v. 使杂交
strain [strein] n. (动植物的)品种
dwarf [dwɔ:f] a. 矮小的
stubby ['stʌbi] a. 短粗的
yield [ji:ld] n. 产量，收获量

famine ['fæmin] n. 饥荒
India ['indjə] n. 印度
Pakistan [ˌpɑ:kis'ta:n] n. 巴基斯坦
import [im'pɔ:t] v. 进口
gratitude ['grætitju:d] n. 感谢，感激

Notes

① Norman Borlaug ['nɔ:mən 'bə:lɔg]
诺曼·博劳格(1914—)美国农学家，1970年获诺贝尔和平奖。

② wheat farmers
种小麦的农民。

③ in the fertilized fields
在肥沃的农田里。

④ …tall, thin stems with huge clusters of valuable wheat.
……在细长的茎上长着价值很高的大麦穗。

⑤ neared
接近，near 在这里做动词用，有时它也可做形容词、副词或介词。

⑥ Long troubled by famine…
由于长期受饥饿的痛苦……

⑦ Nobel Prize
诺贝尔奖金。Alfred Bernhard Nobel ['ɑ:lfred 'bænɑ:d nou'bel] 艾尔费雷德·伯恩哈德·诺贝尔；1833年生于瑞典斯德哥尔摩，1896年死于意大利。诺贝尔曾是瑞典工业家、